

Amendment(s) to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1C. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1C replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1C.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. T sheet, which includes Fig. 2 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 9. This sheet, which includes Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9 and Fig. 10.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 14. This sheet, which includes Fig. 14 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 9, 17 and 21-24 are amended, and claims 27-31 are added. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of all pending claims. The amendments to the specification and drawings correct typographical errors only. No new material has been added.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-26 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,386,878, and alternatively over claims 9-29 and 38-57 of U.S. Patent No. 6,409,504. A Terminal Disclaimer addressing both of the cited patents is being filed concurrently with this Amendment, in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of this double patenting rejection.

Claims Rejected Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chishti et al. (PCT Publication WO 98/58596). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As currently amended, independent claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method for separating gingiva from a tooth on a computer model of the gingiva and the tooth. The method involves defining a cutting surface along the gingiva, modeling a crown surface of the tooth, and applying the cutting surface to the tooth to separate the gingiva from the tooth. Independent claim 21 is directed to a system including means for defining a cutting surface along the gingiva, modeling a crown surface of the tooth, and applying the cutting surface to the tooth to separate the gingiva from the tooth. Independent claims 22 and 23 are directed to computer programs for carrying out these same steps. Each of independent claims 24 and 26 includes a limitation directed to modeling or reconstructing a root of the tooth.

Chishti, does not describe, teach or suggest a method as in any of the present independent claims 1, 21-24 or 26. Specifically, Chishti does not describe either modeling a

crown surface of a tooth or modeling/reconstructing a root of a tooth. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Chishti does not anticipate any of independent claims 1, 21-24 or 26, or any of dependent claims 2-20 and 25, which depend variously therefrom. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement at the same time as this Amendment.

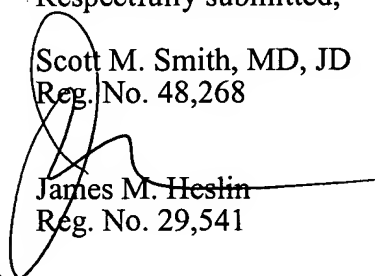
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 408-789-1522.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: *Terminal Disclaimer(U.S. 6,409,504 and U.S. 6,386,878)*
Supplemental Disclosure Statement
Replacement Sheets and Annotated Sheets of Drawings

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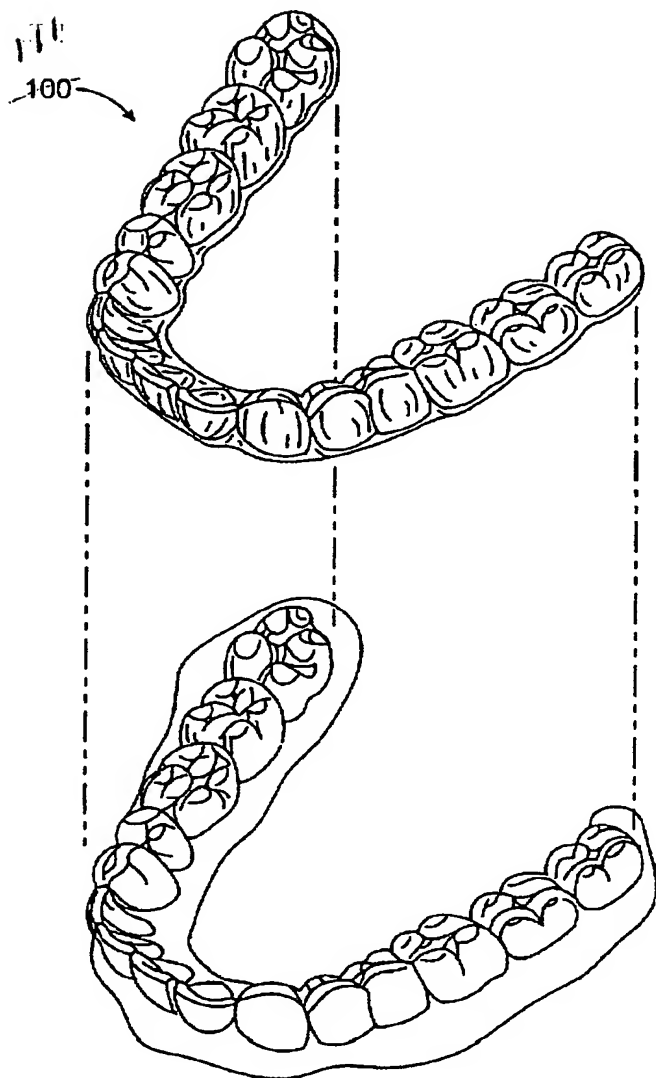


FIG. 1C

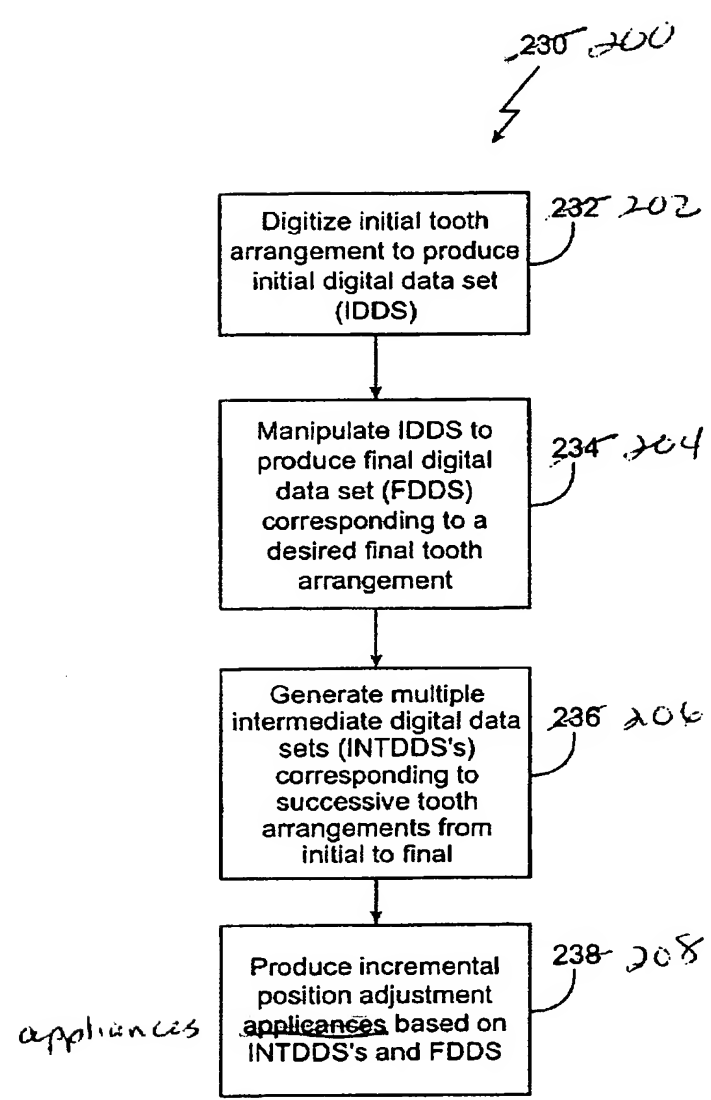


FIG. 2



Application No.: 10/633,015
Applicant: Elena Pavloskaia
Title: Systems and methods for
removing gingiva from computer tooth models
Annotated Sheet 6 of 16

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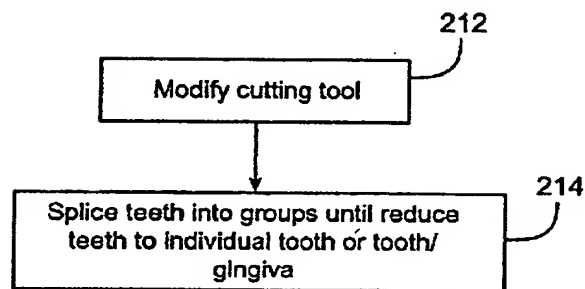


FIG. 4

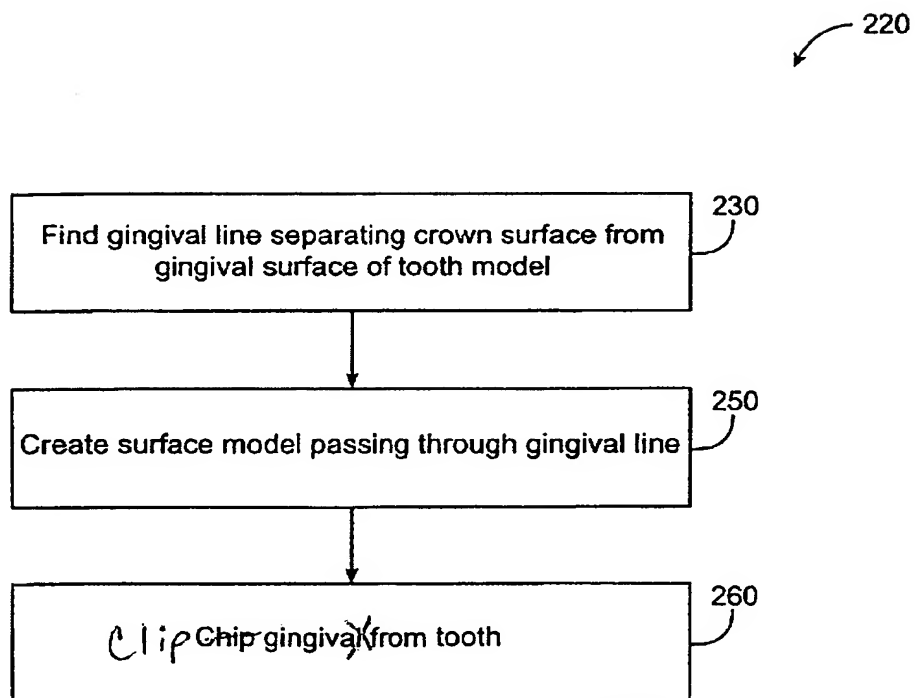


FIG. 5

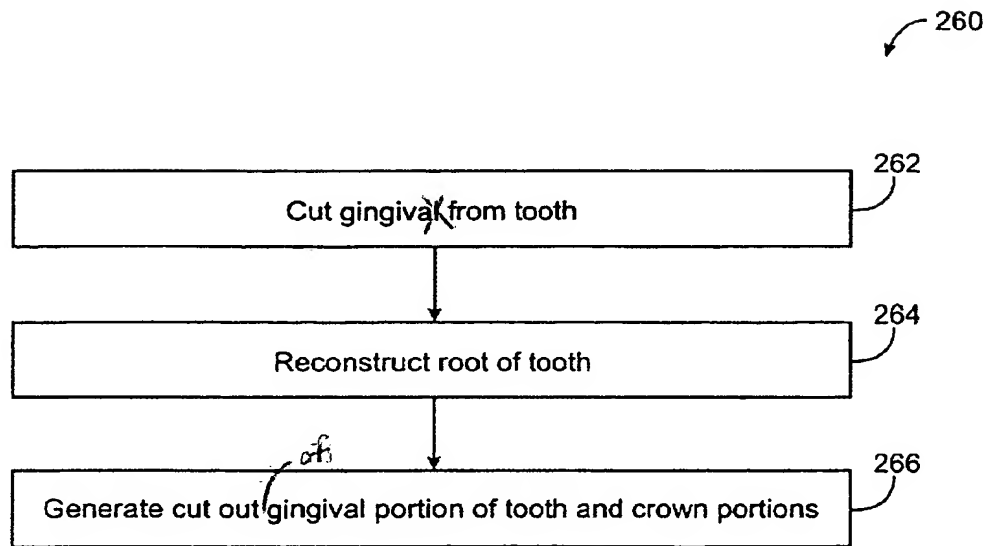


FIG. 9

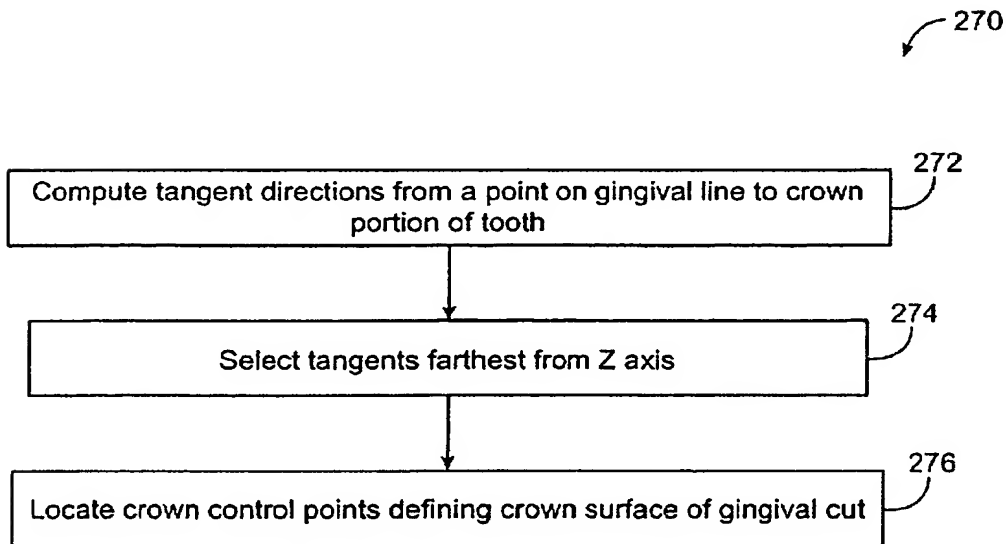


FIG. 10

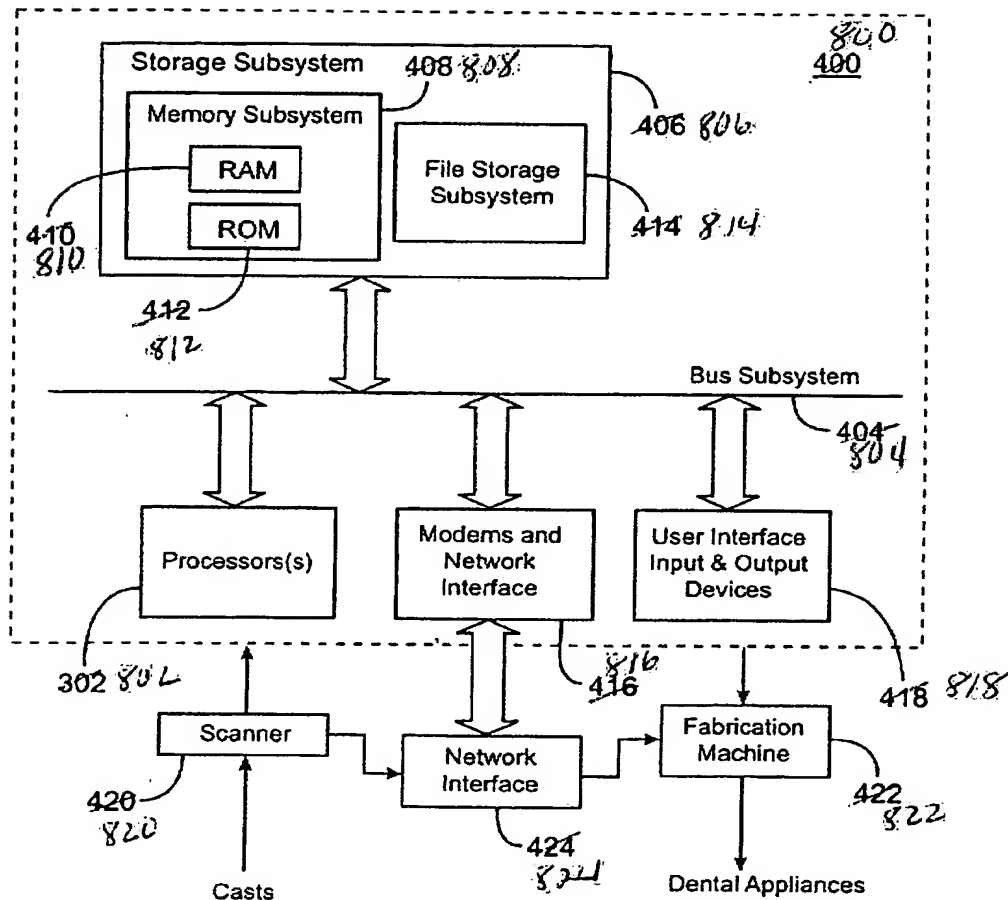


FIG. 14